

REMARKS

Claims 22-31 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 22-25, 27-30 have been rejected under section 102(e) based on Dharanikota (US 6,914,883).

Claims 26 and 31 have been objected to because of their dependency on rejected base claims.

The Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

Formal Matters

The Applicants have not yet received the signed and initialed copy of the PTO Form 1449 corresponding to the IDS filed on December 30, 2004. The Examiner is requested to kindly consider the references filed therein and provide the Applicants with a copy of the corresponding PTO Form 1449.

Rejections under section 102(e) based on Dharanikota

Dharanikota was filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 28, 2000 and there does not appear to be any claim to foreign priority. In any case a foreign origin patent is a reference only as of its U.S. filing date, in this case December 28, 2000. The subject invention is entitled to an effective filing date of January 11, 2000, by virtue of the claim to priority based on JP003041/2000.

Claims 22-25, 27-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Dharanikota. Attached hereto is a verified English translation of Parent Japanese Application Serial No. 003041/2000 pursuant to Rule 55(a), in support of the claim to priority from January

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No.: 09/752,520

Attorney Docket No.: Q62568

11, 2000, under § 119. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the § 102 rejection of claims 22-25, 27-31 based on Dharanikota.

Objected claims

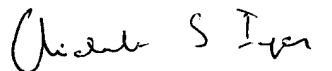
Claims 26 and 31 have been objected to because of their dependency on rejected base claims. Since, as noted above, the rejection of the base claims should be withdrawn, the objections to claims 26 and 31 should also be withdrawn.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Since Friday was a federal holiday, this response is timely filed.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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